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The War.

There are no perceptible signs of an early cessation of the sanguinary and sickening conflict between Russia and Japan. As we write these words the horrible butchery at Port Arthur is in progress again and thousands of men are being done to death by the merciless rifles, bayonets, shells and mines. The great armies on the Shakhe river are sternly facing each other, ready to fall again upon each other, like raging wild beasts, the moment that either of them feels that it has sufficient advantage to enable it to deal its adversary a crushing blow.

There have been rumors that both governments have grown sick of the struggle and would be glad to see it end. Japan at one time even went so far as to approach the Russian government on the subject. But nothing came of this, except larger preparations to continue the struggle. Russia seems to be preparing to call forth the whole military strength of the Empire rather than consent to make peace in the present posture of affairs. The powers talk of mediation, but no serious move in this direction has yet been made.

The struggle in its present stage is laying terrible emphasis on one of the worst characteristics of war. A nation that is in armed conflict with another

refuses to stop until it has either gained the victory or been beaten into helplessness. This is the law of that miserable delusion called "honor." No sacrifices of men or money, no amount of heroism displayed on fields of death, nothing but "shining" victory or hopeless defeat, can save and satisfy "honor!" As if no hurt to honor were done by continuing to break up thousands upon thousands of happy homes, and to load ever increasing and exhausting burdens upon the backs of the people, and to send down to still deeper depths the physical and moral maiming and degradation of the young manhood of the nation!

"Honor" has probably been the cause of more dishonor in the world than any other one thing. We may well pray that this Eastern spectacle may be the last international exhibition of "honor's" deadly fruits that the world may ever behold. If Russia would consent to give up the conflict at once and refuse to contribute another day's instalment to its horrors and woes, to its aftermath of sorrow and economic burdens, to its disturbance of the order and progress of the world, she would by this single decision win for herself more honor and prestige in the eyes of civilized men than she has gained by all her military exploits since the dawn of her history. If she must make incredible sacrifices to save her prestige, why can she not be brave enough to make the great sacrifice? By so doing she would set an example of true honor and glory which would save the world. The nation which distinguished itself immeasurably by calling the Hague Conference ought to be strong and courageous enough to do this also.

The Hague Convention of July 29, 1899.

The comments which have been made in the papers about the North Sea Anglo-Russian incident show how imperfect is the general knowledge of the details of the Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. Most of the dailies and even the great weeklies have uniformly spoken of the trouble as referred to the Hague Court for settlement. The fact is that it has not been referred to the Hague Court at all, and it is improbable that it ever will be.

It is to be regretted that a convention of such vast moment and far-reaching significance as this, which has been fittingly designated the Magna Charta of International Law, and, with even greater appropriateness, an International Covenant on the Mount,